

Lanesboro Area Chamber of Commerce City Council and Mayoral Candidate Questionnaire

Hello, thank you, and congratulations on running for the office of mayor or city council in our great town!

The Lanesboro Area Chamber of Commerce* is a non-profit 501(c)6 membership organization whose purpose is to serve as a catalyst for economic vitality by providing advocacy, information and services to our members AND to promote the City of Lanesboro and the Lanesboro area as a desirable place to visit, live, work and play.

One of the ways we strive to accomplish our mission is by engaging with candidates for local office and connecting you with local issues our members care about. As such, over the past couple of weeks we have been soliciting thoughts and questions from our members so we could put together this questionnaire. Our goal is to produce an informational document, containing your answers to these questions in full, to be published for the benefit of our membership and community. A character limit has been placed on each response in order to make the resulting voter guide as digestible as possible for those reading it.

Please answer any or all of the following questions and hit "Submit" when you're finished. The questions will be published along with your answers. If you opt to not answer any of the below questions, the phrase "Answer not provided" will be shown underneath those questions in the published voter guide.

Thanks in advance for taking the time to answer these questions on behalf of our members and the Lanesboro community!

**LACC does not endorse or represent any candidate for political office.*

Your name *

Joe Cullen

What office are you running for? *

(Choose one)

- Mayor
- City council

Please introduce yourself to chamber members and the Lanesboro community. Some potential prompts to help you think about this:

- What's your Lanesboro Story?
- How long have you lived in Lanesboro?
- Why do you want to serve the city of Lanesboro?
- What do you see as your main goal to accomplish as mayor or a city council member?
- Where do you see the biggest needs in our community?

(5,000 character response limit)

I spent the first half of my life growing up in Coon Rapids, MN. I spent these early years playing a lot of sports, going to church and working for my Dad's small business. I met my wife Ellen (Waldow) Cullen at Augsburg College. She was born and raised here in Lanesboro. I was fortunate after college to get my first teaching job in Lanesboro, and I have been here happily ever since. As a council member, I would strive to help Lanesboro run efficiently, businesses be successful and families thrive. I have never been an elected official before, so there would be a lot for me to learn in making these things happen. If elected, I would listen to all ideas, ask for help, try to analyze issues/situations from every angle and try to find solutions with other council members that are the best for our community.

How would you describe the role of the office you're running for [city council/mayor]? If elected, how do you see yourself taking on these responsibilities?

(2,500 character response limit)

In your opinion, what are the top three issues facing the City of Lanesboro over the next 2-4 years?

(2,500 character response limit)

How do you describe Lanesboro when defining the town's character and purpose? e.g. The roles of tourism and agriculture as economic drivers, etc.

(2,500 character response limit)

What do you see the city's role is in supporting Lanesboro businesses during the proposed Highway 250 construction project?

(2,500 character response limit)

If elected, how do you plan to work with the Minnesota Department of Transportation, Bolton & Menk, and our state elected officials in regards to the proposed Highway 250 construction project?

(2,500 character response limit)

Do you have an opinion on the structure of the Lanesboro Public Library board? i.e. Should it be a governing or advisory entity? And why?

(2,500 character response limit)

If elected, how would you handle an issue that came before the council that you don't know intimately? Describe the steps you would take in fact-finding and your decision-making process.

(2,500 character response limit)

How important is Lanesboro's history and historic preservation for you? Why?

(2,500 character response limit)

What are your thoughts on how the City of Lanesboro can encourage more people (particularly families and younger folks) to move to Lanesboro as full-time residents?

(2,500 character response limit)

In your opinion, is Lanesboro currently an affordable place to live and/or operate a business? If so, what are steps the city can take to keep it that way. If not, what are things the city can do to make Lanesboro a more affordable place to live and do business?

(2,500 character response limit)

What is your overarching vision for Lanesboro? Where would you like our town to be in 5, 10+ years from now?

(2,500 character response limit)

How can the city ensure it is prioritizing our business community and enacting business-friendly ordinances and policies?

(2,500 character response limit)

What do you think is the best way the city council can engage with residents and business owners so that their voices can be heard?

(2,500 character response limit)

What else should people know about you and your candidacy? If you have them, include websites or other sources of information where people could find out more information about you.

(5,000 character response limit)

This form was created inside of Lanesboro Area Chamber of Commerce.

Google Forms